

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system, ~~which can reproduce~~ for reproducing a plurality of channel signals including at least left and right front channels and a center channel for forward-placed speakers, the sound system comprising:

an attenuating means for attenuating ~~to attenuate~~ either a left channel signal or a right channel signal according to an operation on an operating part; and

a controlling means ~~to control the~~ for controlling an attenuation of ~~the~~ a center channel signal depending on the attenuation of the left channel signal or the right channel signal.

Claim 2 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the attenuation by the controlling means~~ attenuates to control the attenuation of the center channel signal is in the range of 0.3n to 0.8n %, when ~~the attenuation by the attenuating means~~ attenuates either ~~of the left channel signal or the and right channel signals~~ signal is conducted in the n % range of ~~the~~ an original signal level.

Claim 3 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system for reproducing, ~~which can reproduce~~ a plurality of channel signals including at least left and right front channels and a center channel for forward-placed speakers, the sound system comprising:

an attenuating means for attenuating ~~to attenuate~~ either a left channel signal or a right channel signal according to an operation on an operating part;

a ~~first~~^{an} adding means ~~to add~~ for adding at least a portion of the attenuated left or right channel signal to ~~the~~ a center channel signal; and

a ~~second~~^{an} adding means ~~to add~~ for adding at least a portion of the center channel signal to the right or left channel signal not being attenuated.

Claim 4 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system according to Claim 3, wherein comprising when ~~the attenuation by the attenuating means~~ attenuates either ~~of the left channel signal or the and right channel signals~~ signals is conducted in the n₁ % range of ~~the~~ an original signal level:

the ~~first~~ adding means adds ~~an~~ to add so that the amount of the attenuated left or right channel signal to be added to the center channel signal is in the range of 0.2n₁ to 0.8n₁ %; and

the second adding means adds an amount of to add the center channel signal to the right or left channel signal not being attenuated so that the added amount by the adding means is in the range of $0.1n_1$ to $0.6n_1$ % of the an original signal level of the center channel signal.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A sound system for reproducing, which can reproduce a plurality of channel signals including at least left and right front channels for forward-placed speakers and left and right rear channels for rear-placed speakers, the sound system comprising:

an attenuating means for attenuating to attenuate either front side channel signals or rear side channel signals according to an operation on an operating part; and

an adding means for adding to add the signals on the attenuated channel side channel signals to the channel side channel signals not being attenuated.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 5, comprising wherein when the attenuation by the attenuating means to attenuate attenuates either of the front side and channel signals or the rear side channel signals is conducted in the n_2 % range of the an original front side or rear side channel signals signal level:

the adding means adds an amount of to add the attenuated side channel signals on the attenuated channel side to the channel side channel signals not being attenuated so that the added amount by the adding means is in the range of $0.2n_2$ to $0.8n_2$ %.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A sound system for reproducing, which can reproduce a plurality of channel signals including at least left and right front channels for forward-placed speakers and left and right rear channels for rear-placed speakers, the sound system comprising:

an attenuating means for attenuating to attenuate either left side channel signals or right side channel signals according to an operation on an operating part; and

an adding means to add for adding at least a portion of the signals on the attenuated channel side channel signals to the channel side channel signals not being attenuated.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 7, wherein comprising when the attenuation by the attenuating means to attenuate attenuates either of the left side channel signals or the and right side channel signals is conducted in the n_3 % range of the original signal levels of the left side channel signals or the right side channel signals:

the adding means adds an amount of to add the signals on the attenuated-channel side channel signals to the channel side channel signals not being attenuated so that the added amount by the adding means is in the range of $0.2n_3$ to $0.8n_3$ %.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 3, further comprising wherein a delaying means is intervened before the first and second adding means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 3, further comprising an additional attenuating means to reduce the for reducing a level of a highest of the left, center, or right channel signal on which the addition is conducted so that the level of the channel signal after the addition does not change.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 3, further comprising:
an additional the attenuating means to reduce the for reducing a level of a highest of the left, center, or right channel signal on which the addition is conducted so that the level of the channel signal after the addition does not change; and
a controlling means for controlling to control by again reducing again the attenuated left or right channel signal level depending on the an attenuation factor by which the additional attenuating means conducts attenuation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 4, further comprising wherein a delaying means is intervened before the first and second adding means.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A sound system according to Claim 5, further comprising wherein a delaying means is intervened before the adding means.

Claim 14 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system according to Claim 6, further comprising
wherein a delaying means is intervened before the adding means.

Claim 15 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system according to Claim 7, further comprising
wherein a delaying means is intervened before the adding means.

Claim 16 (**Currently Amended**) A sound system according to Claim 8, further comprising
wherein a delaying means is intervened before the adding means.